Air India staff of Dubai

997. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIA TION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India had recalled the entire Indian staff based at its office in Dubai in September last year;

(b) if so, in what circumstances; and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken to improve the conditions in that office?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the seizure of gold by Customs on Air India flight AI-744 of 29th August, 1994 on Dubai-Bombay sector, the Government had decided to recall Air India staff handling flight operations at Dubai. Accordingly, the concerned staff was recalled in phases from October, 1994 to February, 1995 by Air India.

'(c) Engineering personnel have been instructed to check the avionics com partment on all departures. The secu rity arrangements are reviewed periodically and surprise checks are undertaken to ensure that the system is working properly.

Plana to encourage tourism in Punjab

998. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated the action plan to encourage tourism in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government are contemplating to develop and promote tourism in the Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Deptt. of Tourism, Govt, of India has formulated a National Action Plan for Tourism in 1992. The National Action Plan provides the guidelines for the development of tourism in all the potential areas of the country including Punjab.

The main items of the Action Plan are given in the annexed, Statement. *(See* below)

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, the Central Deptt. of Tourism provides financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure to State Governments/ Union Territories, on receipt of specific proposals from State Governments/ Union Territories. During the current year the Deptt. of Tourism has sanctioned the following three proposals for development of tourism infrastructure in Punjab:—

1. Tourist Complex at Patala sanctioned for Rs. 21.19 lakhs Released 10.00 „
2. Tourist Complex at Harike sanctioned for Rs- 20.09 lakhs Released 10.00 „
3. Tourist Complex at Sunam sanctioned for Rs. 21.19 lakhs Released 10.00 „

Statement

(1) Identification of Special Tourism Areas.

(2) Identification of circuits/destinations for intensive development.

(3) Special category of heritage hotels/health resorts to be created and provided.

Technical consultancy help loans from financial institutitns interest subsidy marketing and operational expertise.

(4) Revamping of foreign offices to make them more accountable in terms of specified targets.

(5) Information revolution; in formation system to be revamped to provide positive projections of India in all leading markets.